



For Immediate Release

December 29, 2010

Media Contact:

Fiona Brosnan, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

fbrosnan@anthc.org, 907-729-1967

Alaska Native Medical Center Nurse named Ambulatory Nurse of Year in Alaska

March of Dimes recently announced the winners of the 2010 Nurses of the Year. The annual awards honors exemplary registered nurses whose leadership and contributions have made a significant impact in their community and the profession of nursing.

The winners were selected based on their extraordinary level of patient care, compassion and customer service and perceived as a leader among peers in affecting positive change in the profession, workplace and community. Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) is proud to announce that our own, Meldyne Hersman, RN, BSN, OCN, was honored in the category of Ambulatory Nursing.

This is the second time that Meldyne Hersman received the ambulatory nursing award, the first was in 2005. She has worked at ANMC in the Oncology Department for six years. Hersman believes passionately that nurses should take personal responsibility for their own professional growth. When she applied for a nursing position, despite having no experience in administering chemotherapy, she excelled.

“One of the most rewarding aspects of my position as an oncology nurse is to be a source of encouragement, as well as help to other nurses who are caring for our cancer patients,” Hersman said. Continuing in the vein of nursing professional development and growth, Hersman requested an opportunity to gain more knowledge and qualifications to teach the Oncology Nursing Society’s Chemotherapy & Biotherapy training course.

Since receiving the instructor credentials, Hersman has been instrumental in educating 86 nurse colleagues the fundamentals of chemotherapy administration and provided outreach to nurses from Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Sitka, Dillingham, and the Fairbanks areas. Hersman has 16 years of nursing experience.

“For Meldyne to win a March of Dimes Award is a remarkable achievement,” said Richard Hall, Chief Nurse Executive at ANMC, “This is a tremendous honor and we share her vision to continuously find new ways to advance patient care.”

About the Alaska Native Medical Center

The Alaska Native Medical Center operates a state-of-the-art 150-bed facility providing comprehensive medical services to Alaska Natives and American Indians. ANMC is jointly managed by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Southcentral Foundation and includes the Anchorage Native Primary Care Center.